

20th March, 2005



No. 833

Ballineaspais Bulletin

Sixth Sunday of Lent



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNEHY'S CROSS, DUBLIN



FROM OUR
**PARISH
TEAM**

The Dean writes

HOLY WEEK

Usually when I sit down to write my piece for the front page of the **Bulletin**, I try to recall some little anecdote (real or imaginary) that might interest my readers – and lure them on to read the rest of the page. Not this time. I read the lessons for this Palm Sunday – as I have done before. But this time was different. I found myself touched and affected by the great unfolding drama of the Passion. This was no time for flippancy or cleverness. I was silenced by the most moving story the world has ever known – the awful suffering endured by Jesus on our behalf. I was saddened too by the humiliation heaped on Jesus from all sides. Herod and his guards treated him with contempt and made fun of him. The Jewish leaders jeered at him – “Let him come down from the cross and we will believe in him.” The soldiers mocked him – even one of the criminals hanging beside him abused him. And all this irrational hatred for one who should have received nothing but gratitude and appreciation for all the good he had done – even if they didn’t realize he was, in fact, the Son of God and Lord of the whole universe. Their fury and bitterness was concentrated in that awful howl, “Crucify him, Crucify him”.

The only response from Jesus was a prayer for forgiveness for his tormentors: “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they

do”. The only way to overcome evil is by good.

I saw the film: “The Passion of Christ” last Lent. The cruelty portrayed was appalling. I abhor violence, even portrayal of violence. In spite of this I found it a deeply moving experience. I think the rest of the audience did too. I remember the complete silence at the end. Nobody moved for a while. I understand this reaction was commonplace.

My re-action to re-reading the Passion this week – I will go to confession for Easter, and try to show some return of love for love.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE !

You still have time to fill your Trócaire box. Your contribution will make a bit difference to those in need.

Please return your box at the 7.30 p.m. ceremonies on Holy Thursday, or hand it into the sacristy during Holy Week.

**RECONCILIATION SERVICE
FOR EASTER
TODAY PASSION SUNDAY
AT 5.00 P.M.**

**JUST LENT '4'
FINAL LUNCHTIME TALK**

Sister Medhin, Daughter of Charity

In an inspiring and challenging talk, St. Medhin, who was born in Ethiopia, spoke about her work among the poorest of the poor in that country.

Ethiopia, with a population of over 70 million people, suffers greatly from drought and famine. Consequently, many endure intense hardship in poor living conditions. Infant mortality is high, 90% of all births have no medical support.

It is estimated that over 3 million people suffer from HIV AIDS. As a result, there are in excess of 1.2 million children orphaned, many with the HIV virus.

Sr. Medhin works among the street children of Tigray and at the orphanage which caters for 1200 children.

Thanks to the generosity of the people of Ireland, conditions in Ethiopia are slowly improving, but life for many continues to be difficult. Sr. Medhin requested prayers for those involved in the work, "that we may see the image of Jesus in all those we serve".

Finally, the gracious and charming Sr. Medhin asked all present to stand for a group photo – a reminder of her visit. Following her trip to Ireland, her next engagement is to speak at the House of Lords in London.

DIUN S W I N A I D A N T L I W
D N O I S T I G A I T P A N O T E U N

We offer our sincere sympathy to JOE CREAN, The Orchard, Farranlea Park, on the death of his brother Liam, in Dublin.

A GOOD BEGINNING

Accepting forgiveness is more important than giving it. Accepting it seems easy to do. But to accept genuine forgiveness, one must admit to oneself and to another that one has failed. In our time, that is the crunch. Pride will not let us recognise our selfishness and if we do not admit our failure, we can never accept forgiveness.

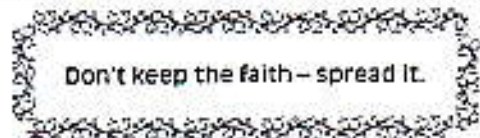
A cornerstone of inner peace and happiness is to be able and willing to admit our failures as a prelude to accepting the healing power of genuine forgiveness. The proud can never do it. Our parish reconciliation service this Sunday afternoon is an opportunity for us as a parish community as well as individually to accept this gift from God.

The service begins at 5.00 p.m. and will last about 45 to 50 minutes. Bring a friend. It will be a good beginning to Holy Week.

PASTORAL COUNCIL

The main topic for discussion at this month's meeting was the role of the Council in the wider community. Stating that we should view our role as being not just Church orientated, but seeking to contact and help those with needs in our community, Fr. Clancy suggested that we promote a 'Good Neighbour Week' in May, preferably at Pentecost time. It was proposed to make contact with the St. Vincent de Paul and Meals-on-Wheels for further discussion.

Next meeting on 11th April at 8.10 p.m.





Announcements

Easter Dues

Through the kindness of our dedicated dues collectors, we hope to get an envelope to each home in the parish over the next ten days. Our distribution network has some blank spots. If you do not receive an envelope, please let us know. Thank you.

Baile'n Easpaig Gramophone Circle

Our usual monthly recital will take place at 3.00 p.m. on Wednesday next, 23rd March, in the crypt of our church at Dennehy's Cross when Paddy McSweeney will present a programme of delightful music. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Annual Pioneer Mass

Will take place on Wed. 13th April at 8.00 p.m. at Christ the King Convent Chapel (rear of the girls school) Refreshments will be provided afterwards. Everybody welcome.

Divine Mercy Novena

At Curraheen Church commencing Good Friday until 2nd April. Details in church porch.

Bishopstown Scouts

Due to an increase in the numbers wishing to join the Scouting movement, we are seeking adult volunteers to train as leaders. Previous experience of scouting is not necessary, as full training will be given. Also, there are still a few places available in the Junior Sections (Beavers 6yrs. - 8yrs., Cubs 8yrs - 10yrs.) for September 2005.

If you are interested in either of the above please telephone 4543201.

Bible Corner



Mel Gibson's film emphasised the sheer brutality of Christ's suffering rather than the love which inspired it. When we hear the passion story again this weekend and on Good Friday, we must be open to its power to change our hearts. The suffering is genuine. The failure of nerve is blatant. The betrayals are many. Cowards have a field day. Heroes are few. Friends are very scarce. Veronica and Simon of Cyrene will be remembered forever. Are we ready to be touched by the power of the passion story read in a community of pilgrim believers who hope against hope that Jesus and His promises are for real?



Ministers of the Eucharist

Please collect your Easter Rota at altar rails.

God's Word

Readings for Sunday 27th March

First Reading:

Acts 10:34, 37-43. The first reading presents Peter announcing the news of the resurrection.

Psalm : 117

Second Reading:

Col. 3:1-4 or 1 Cor.5:6-9. Paul reminds us that we are called to share the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel:

Jn.20:1-9. The gospel tells the story of the appearance of the risen Jesus to Mary Magdalen.



HOLY WEEK CEREMONIES

TRIDUUM

Holy Thursday

- 7.30 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper
Please bring Trócaire Boxes
- 9.00 - 10.00 p.m. Keeping Watch
-

Good Friday

- 11.00 a.m. Stations of the Cross by children for children
- 12.00 noon Stations of the Cross for all
- 3.00 p.m. Celebration of the Passion of the Lord
Veneration of the Cross
Holy Communion
- 8.30 - 9.30. Watch and Pray
-

Holy Saturday

- 9.00 p.m. The Easter Vigil
N.B. No Vigil Mass at 6.15 p.m
-

- Easter Sunday Masses:** 9.00, 10.30 and 12.15 p.m.
- Easter Monday Mass:** 10.00 a.m.
- Weekday Masses:** 9.00 and 10.00 a.m.
-

RECONCILIATION

- Sunday 20th March:** Reconciliation Service at 5.00 p.m.
- Good Friday:** After ceremonies and 7.30 - 9.30 p.m.
- Holy Saturday:** 12.00 - 1.00; 4.00 - 5.00; 7.00 - 8.30 p.m.
-

EMERGENCY NUMBER

087 - 251 9940